



YOUNG SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS INITIATIVE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FY-14 YOUNG SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADER INITIATIVE (YSEALI) PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM ON LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND GOVERNANCE

The American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) is pleased to announce the development of The Young Southeast Asian Initiative (YSEALI) Professional Fellows Program focused on Legislative Process and Governance for young political and policy leaders from Vietnam. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, the program is jointly implemented by the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) in the U.S. and the Vietnam-U.S.A. Society, under The Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations in Vietnam. The application deadline is December 1st, 2014.

Program overview

The YSEALI ACYPL's Professional Fellows Program will provide 26 international participants from Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam with an in-depth, hands-on exploration of the vital role that a diverse civil society plays in our country's political processes, and how this involvement informs and enhances political transparency and accountability as well as American democracy. In so doing, fellows will strengthen their understanding of American governance, politics, and the legislative process. The American program participants will gain knowledge and insight into the government and political dynamics of the country in which their hosted fellows live and work. By then travelling to these countries, they will gain personal perspectives into the challenges and opportunities of local political and government systems and share professional knowledge, strategic advice, best practices, and shared aspirations.

These exchanges will serve as a foundation on which to establish sustainable two-way partnerships between the young political and policy professionals from these Southeast Asian countries and their American counterparts, with the goal of promoting and strengthening civil society, good governance, mutual understanding, and trust.

These exchanges also support the White House Young Southeast Leaders Initiative (YSEALI), a network of bright young leaders aged 18-35 years from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. These young leaders have innovative ideas for tackling what they have identified as their generation's greatest challenges in the ASEAN region: economic development, environmental protection, education, and civic engagement.



YOUNG SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS INITIATIVE

International Fellows Overview

Two international fellows from each country will travel to Washington, DC for a 5-day program orientation and federal government overview as well as cultural outings.

Each fellow will participate in a 4-week intensive fellowship in a separate political, policy, or civil society office with day-to-day mentoring and guidance from a single point of contact, their fellowship host. Each Friday, the fellows will meet their American mentor, an ACYPL alum, to attend meetings pertaining to current events in the area, reflect on the week's experiences, and work on their individual project plans.

At the conclusion of the program, all international fellows will return to Washington, DC for a 3-day Professional Fellows Congress where they will interact and share their experiences with other international fellows from different programs.

Upon returning to their home countries, international fellows will work with their American mentors to create an 8-10 day program in which the American mentor will visit each of fellows' places of employment to learn more about what they do, assist in the continuing implementation of their project, meet with local leaders, as well as enjoy cultural outings.

Other Essential Program Information

Program Funding: The United States government will cover all participant costs, including international travel; travel and ground transportation in the U.S.; meals; lodging; and cultural allowances. Care will be taken to meet any special requirements regarding diet, daily worship, housing, and medical care.

While you will be asked to host U.S. participants at your place of work, the program for the Americans will be at no expense to you or your organization. American participants will be provided all funds for hotels, meals and transportation.

Health Insurance: All participants will receive the U.S. Department of State's health coverage. Pre-existing conditions are not covered.

Program Requirements and Restrictions: Participants are expected to participate fully in the program. They are expected to attend all workshops and organized activities. The program is intensive and there will be little time for personal pursuits.

Program Time line:

The program will be implemented in two sessions. The Spring Session will be from April 25 through June 5, 2015. The Fall Session will be from October 3 through November 13, 2015.



YOUNG SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS INITIATIVE

The recruitment period is October 15 – November 30, 2014. Application review will be conducted by the ACYLP in conjunction with in-country partners. A select number of semi-finalists will be chosen for personal interviews via Skype, taking place in February 2015 (for Spring session); and in June 2015 (for Fall session). Selected candidates for Spring Session will be notified by February 15, 2015, and will depart for the U.S. in April, 2015. Selected candidates for Fall Session will be notified by July 15, 2015, and will depart for the U.S in October 2015.

Candidate Description and Qualifications: YSEALI Legislative Fellows must be:

- Between the ages of 25-35
- Fluent in oral and written English
- Provide a comprehensive, well-conceived written framework for a project to be refined and implemented with input and assistance of an American mentor in their home country
- Self-directed and able to work effectively in cross-cultural settings
- Demonstrated commitment to public service
- Leadership potential in the government, private sector, or civil society
- Committed to organizing an 8-10 day program in their country for an American mentor
- Committed to becoming an active member in the YSEALI community
- May not hold a dual-US citizenship or have travelled on a J-1 visa for a Department of State sponsored program in the past two years

The deadline for receipt of applications is December 1st, 2014. Late applications will not be accepted.

The program application for the YSEALI Professional Fellows Program will open on October 15, 2014. For further information about the program and application process, please contact Ms. Pham Thu Linh, Secretary-Program Coordinator, Vietnam-U.S.A Society. Telephone 84-4 38454518; E-mail: linhpt@vus.org.vn; or e-mail the Cultural Team, U.S. Embassy Hanoi at pas.culture@gmail.com; or Cultural Affairs Assistant Le Muon, U.S. Consulate Ho Chi Minh City at LeMuonTK@state.gov